

THE GULF STREAM

It is the Grandest of All Terrestrial Phenomena.

A MIGHTY RIVER IN THE SEA.

Billions of Tons of Water Are Whirled Along Hourly In This Wonderful Torrent, Whose Beneficent Influence Is Felt All Around the World.

Ninety billion tons of water are carried hourly through the strait of Florida by the gulf stream, according to Rear Admiral John E. Pillsbury, U. S. N., in a communication to the National Geographic society at Washington. This stream, he says, is probably the grandest and most mighty of any terrestrial phenomenon.

"If this one single hour's flow of water could be evaporated the remaining salts would require many times more than all the ships in the world to carry it," says Admiral Pillsbury.

"It is difficult for the mind to grasp the immensity of the great ocean river. When one is on board a vessel floating upon its waters one is not as much impressed at the power and grandeur of this wonder of nature as he is when he stands before a towering mountain, an immense iceberg or a fall of water such as Niagara.

"But when one remembers that the mighty torrent, speeding on hour by hour and day by day in a volume equal to all the largest rivers of the world combined, carrying its beneficent heat to temper the climate of continents, one begins to realize that of all the forces of the physical world none can equal this one river of the ocean.

"It is interesting to note in the history of the gulf stream how great its influence has been on the fortunes of the new world.

"Before the discovery of America strange woods and fruits were frequently found on the shores of Europe. Some of these were seen by Columbus and to him were convincing evidence that strange lands were to the westward. These woods were carried by the gulf stream and by the prevailing winds from America, so that in part the stream is responsible for the discovery of the new world.

"Ponce de Leon, while searching for the fountain of youth, discovered this stream. He sailed southward along the coast of Florida, thus stemming the current. He says they found a current that, though the wind was good, they could not stem. It seemed that their vessels were going fast through the water, but they were being driven back in spite of the strong and favorable wind. One ship was 'soon carried away by the current and lost from sight, although it was a clear sky.'

"The theories as to the cause of ocean currents have been many. In recent times the course of currents has been laid to rivers and the gulf stream chiefly to the Mississippi. In actual fact about 2,000 such rivers would be required.

"In the tropical regions there is a steady movement of the air from east to west, known as the trade winds. Winds blowing over the surface of the water induce a current in the latter due to friction. At first it is only the merest skin that moves, but gradually the motion is communicated from layer to layer until at last, if the wind is long continued as in the trade wind region, the movement extends to lower depths, 300 or 400 feet or perhaps more.

"These trade wind currents continue across the Caribbean until they reach the obstruction of the Honduras and Yucatan coasts, from which they escape into the gulf of Mexico.

"Another source of the gulf stream is the wave caused by the wind. Every ripple carries a certain amount of water in the direction toward which it is flowing, irrespective of the current caused by its friction, and when the waves become large tons of water are hurled from the crest into the trough every time the wave breaks.

"In a large area like the Caribbean, having a comparatively constant wind blowing over its whole surface, this action is, practically a simultaneous movement of the surface waters to the westward.

"There is every evidence that the gulf stream is governed absolutely by law in all its variations. Its course through the ocean is without doubt fixed. Its fluctuations are by days, months, seasons or by years, but they do not vary materially one year from the other. So we may conclude that of all the physical forces on this earth that are subject to any variations at all the great ocean currents are most immutable."

To Bore Iron.

The following method is said to be effective when one has not the proper tools for making a hole in an iron plate:

Shape a stick of sulphur to the required dimensions of the hole, then heat the iron white hot at the place where it is to be bored and press the sulphur against it. Sulphur of iron is formed, and the stick passes through the metal.—Exchange.

Wasted Energy.

"That's what I call wasted energy," said Billson.

"What is it?" asked Jilson.

"Two girls kissing each other."—Livingston Lane.

Tomorrow is not elastic enough in which to press the neglected duties of today.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

An Ancient Method of Collecting the Precious Yellow Dust.

In the legend of the golden fleece lies hidden the record of an ancient method of the Tiberians, the sons of Tubal, for the collection of gold. The north coast of Asia Minor produced large quantities of the precious metals as well as copper and iron. Gold was found in the gravel, as often happens still in streams draining from copper regions. The gold in copper ores, originally containing insignificant amounts of the precious metal, accumulates in the course of ages and sometimes forms placers of astonishing richness.

The ancient Tiberians washed the gold bearing gravel first by booming, which concentrated the gold into relatively small amounts of sand. This was then collected and washed through sluices having the bottoms lined with sheepskins. The gold would sink into the wool, while the sand would be washed away in the swift current.

The skins were removed from the sluices, the coarser gold shaken out, and the fleeces, still glittering with the yellow metal, were hung upon boughs to dry so that the rest of the gold might be beaten from them and saved. The early Greek mariners, witnessing this process, carried home tales of the wonderful riches of a land where a warlike race of miners hung golden fleeces upon the trees in the grove of Ares.

The natives of the country of Tubal still call the high grade copper ore and break it into smalls, which they cover with wood and roast to matte; they still work the matte in forgelike furnaces to black copper, which they ship to Alexandretta and to Euxine ports. They still make the famous carbonized iron that was celebrated as Damascus steel because it was distributed through this mart to the rest of the world after receiving a finish by local Damascene workmen.

TRIBUTE TO COTTON.

Henry W. Grady's Glowing Eulogy Upon the Wonderful Plant.

Henry W. Grady, the silver-tongued orator of the south, once pronounced this eulogy upon the cotton plant:

"What a royal plant it is! The world waits in attendance on its growth. The showers that fall whispering on its leaves are heard around the earth. The sun that shines upon it is tempered by the prayers of all the people. The frosts that chill it and the dews that descend from the stars are noted, and the trespass of a little worm upon its green leaf means more to England and to English homes than the advance of a Russian army upon her Asian frontier. It is gold from the time it puts forth its tiniest shoot. Its foliage decks the sower earth in emerald sheen. Its blossoms reflect the brilliant hues of sunset skies in southern climes and put to shame the loveliest rose, and when loosing its snowy fleece to the sun it floats a banner that glorifies the field of the humble farmer.

"Its fiber is current in every bank in all the world. Its oil adds luxury to lordly banquets in noble halls and brings comfort to lowly homes in every clime. Its flour gives to man a food richer in health-producing value than any the earth has ever known, and a curative agent long sought and found in nothing else. Its meal is feed for every beast that bows to man's labor from Norway's frozen peaks to Africa's parched plains.

"It is a heritage that God gave to this people when he reached the skies, established our mountains, girded us about with oceans, tempered the sunshine and measured the rain—ours and our children's forever and forever—and no princelier talent ever came from his omnipotent hand to mortal stewardship."

Flooding Holland.

Holland's safety in time of war lies in her ability to flood great tracts of land. William of Orange flooded the country in 1574 and by so doing drove out the Spanish invaders. The same policy was adopted on the occasion of the French invasion of 1872. The movement of a lever at Amsterdam is sufficient to open every dike and dam in Holland simultaneously. It is said, to put under water within the space of a few hours the whole country from Naarden, on the Zuider Zee, by Utrecht to Geertruidenberg, at the mouth of the Meuse.—Argonaut.

Abel's Fate.

"I'm afraid," said the patient wife, "that yours will be the fate of Abel."

"Why, what do you mean?" asked the astonished husband.

"Well," she replied, "Abel was killed by a club, and your club will be the death of you if you don't come home oftener."

Identifying Her.

"Brown, do you know the lady across the street?" asked Smith.

"Let me see," replied Brown; "she certainly looks familiar. That's my wife's dress, my daughter's hat, my mother-in-law's parasol. Why, yes! That's our cook."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Partly Prepared.

"Did you succeed in getting that manager to engage you?"

"Yes. He is going to let me play the part of a walking gentleman."

"Well, you can walk all right, so you'll merely have to learn the other part."—Judge.

All Settled.

Howard—I hear your daughter is going to marry an English nobleman. Is it all settled? Coward—Yes; every cent she had.—Pittsburgh Press.

OUR PUBLIC FORUM

Otto Kahn
On Financial Farm Loans



Every citizen who desires to become capable in business should study banking, and every farmer who wants to see the business of agriculture properly financed should study diligently the financial systems of other industries. All other lines of industry have developed financial facilities adapted to their needs. We have all sorts of financial syndicates authorized by law or custom to deal in a certain line of securities, but in none of these financial channels will farm securities travel without a bonus in the way of an excessive rate of interest or heavy discounts.

The most powerful financial institutions in America are private banks and they are the most important to the financial life of industry. In no line of business does honesty, efficiency and stability make more imperative demands than upon private bankers, whose greatest asset is the confidence of the buying public in his business judgment and integrity. Mr. Otto Kahn of Kahn, Loeb & Company, when asked to state the relation of the private banker to the business of the nation, said in part:

"One of the most important functions of the private banker is to be the instrument for providing the money needed for the efficient conduct and development of railroads and other industries. He does this by buying securities in bulk from those needing capital, for which purpose he usually associates himself with a large number of other financial houses, great and small, thus forming what is called a syndicate. Having in this way concluded the buying transaction he offers to the public the securities purchased by means of advertising, circularizing and through the facilities of the retail houses included in the syndicate, many of whom employ traveling salesmen. Of course the banker and the syndicate count on a reasonable profit for their services; on the other hand they run the risk of the securities, which they have definitely bought and paid for at a fixed price, remaining on their hands wholly, or in part, if the public, for one reason or another, should be unwilling to buy them. The selling of securities is a highly specialized trade, requiring much experience, organization, machinery and scrutiny. This is one of the reasons why corporations do better in offering securities to the public through bankers than if they offered them direct. The willingness of the public to buy depends upon their confidence in the integrity and the judgment of the banker who makes the offer, and a banker who attempts to mislead the public, or who is deficient in care or judgment, would very soon find himself without customers and, therefore, out of business. In many European countries, the functions of the private banker include the placing of bonds secured by farm mortgages. Bonds of this nature are issued in large quantities by mortgage banks who buy mortgages on farms and other real estate and deposit them as security for their own bonds, which in their turn are sold to bankers. It is to be hoped that similar institutions will, in course of time, be created in America, thus placing the farming industry on a par with other important industries in facilities to obtain capital."

KEEPING HOUSE IN GREECE.

"Live From Hand to Mouth and Never Take Anything Seriously."

In "Days in Attica" Mrs. R. C. Bosanquet gives some valuable rules for the American or the European who takes up a residence in Greece, and we are not sure that most of these rules might not be applied with advantage elsewhere. In Greece housekeeping is a game, and, like all other games, you must know the rules before you can enjoy it.

"The first rule is 'Never take anything seriously.' If your cook bids you an eternal farewell two hours before your dinner party, if your new housemaid scrubs your parquet floors, if your tulip bulbs are cooked for onions, there is only one thing to be done, and that is laugh. At home we housewives are inclined to feel that our reputation is at stake if anything goes wrong. In Athens we all know that 'such things will occur,' and we all judge each other kindly and are willing to lend our cooks or floor polish or our bulbs, as the case may be.

"The second rule is 'Live from hand to mouth.' The conditions of the climate make it unwise to keep any store of provisions in the house. Be content that your cook should bring you each day your daily supply of bread, butter, milk, meat and vegetables. If a party of English friends 'come up with a song from the sea' and unexpectedly claim your hospitality for luncheon your servants will gladly make all the show they can with everything there may happen to be in the house, though they and you must fast for it this night. Perhaps your butler will dash out to 'borrow' a leg of mutton from your neighbor or the roses from his garden. No Greek servant ever fails to arise to an emergency. He loves emergencies. It is the daily round that gruels him."

COLOSSAL SIRIUS.

This Monster Star is About Forty Times Bigger Than Our Sun.

The more that is learned about the giant suns of space the more wonderful they appear. The biggest (to our eyes) of these great superstars is the dog star, Sirius. It equals probably thirty or forty suns like the one that makes our daylight.

The speed of light gives a ready means of comparing the distances of the sun and of Sirius, and upon the difference between those distances depends the fact that, although Sirius is in reality so much greater than the sun, it looks relatively insignificant.

Light takes about eight and a half minutes to come to us from the sun. But it takes about eight and a half years to come from Sirius!

As a minute is to a year, so is the distance of the sun to that of Sirius.

In other words, the great dog star is about 526,000 times as far away as is the sun.

But the brightness of any shining object diminishes in proportion to the square of the increase of its distance. Accordingly if Sirius were actually just as bright as the sun it ought to appear 526,000 x 526,000, or 276,676,000,000 times fainter than the sun to our eyes. But measurement of its light shows that it appears only about 7,000,000,000 times fainter than the sun, from which immediately follows the conclusion that its actual brightness must exceed the sun's about forty times.—Garrett P. Services in Spokane Spokesman-Review.

When the chest feels on fire and the throat burns, you have indigestion and you need Herbine to get rid of the disagreeable feeling. It drives out badly digested food, strengthens the stomach and purifies the bowels. Price 50c. Sold by Wilbur Mitchell, Beaver Dam.

The Master at Arms.

A master at arms is a petty officer in the navy who forms one of the police of a ship. In the United States navy there are four grades of masters at arms—chief master at arms and master at arms of the first, second and third class. Large vessels have one chief and several of the lower ratings. In small ships a first or second class master at arms is the chief of the ship's police.—Boston Globe.

A Treacherous Jewel.

If a faded turquoise be dampened its color is temporarily restored. The orientals utilize this quality by carrying a stone in their mouths and deftly slipping it into their hands to display it to a prospective purchaser. Dealers in Moslem goods against such deceptions by retaining a stone a few days before purchasing, as the turquoise is the most treacherous of jewels.—Liverpool Mercury.

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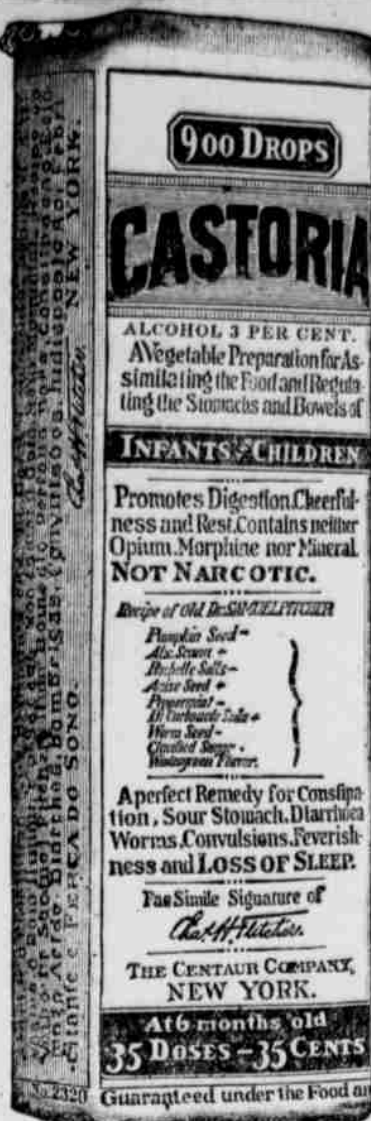
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Why insure with an Owensboro man when you have a man here at home who can and will give you just as good, if not better? Practice the old idea "Let the home man have your business." I will appreciate it and spend the money that you pay me here at home.

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